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# Stella Duncan Research program obtains freeze-dryer that will preserve bacterial cultures in their original state up to 20 years

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A freeze-dryer that will preserve bacterial cultures in their original state for as long as 20 years has been obtained for use in the Stella Duncan Research program at Montana State University, Missoula, according to Dr. John J. Munoz, director of Stella Duncan Memorial Fund Research and chairman of the Bacteriology Dept.

The equipment was purchased with funds from a $50,000 grant made this fall to Dr. Munoz by the U. S. Public Health Service to enable him to do allergy research over a five-year period.

Basic research in allergy carried on by the University is financed by a fund created by Mrs. Stella Duncan Johnstone, an MSU alumna who died in 1948. Mrs. Johnstone, a victim of bronchial asthma, stipulated that the fund be used for the study of the causes and cure of bronchial asthma, allergy, and hypersensitivity. Because the Health Service grant was made for work on allergy, it can be used to supplement the Duncan fund and so make possible an expanded program of allergy research at the University, Dr. Munoz said.

The new freeze-dryer at MSU will freeze and dry bacterial cultures. In this dry state bacteria can be kept in a dormant form for many years. This means that when they are taken out and put in a suitable medium, they will still be alive, Dr. Munoz said. The machine can be used to preserve many kinds of materials that would readily undergo change or would die out or deteriorate if not frozen and dried, he added.

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